

Remarks

Applicants have canceled claims 1 to 30, and Applicants have added claims 31 to 36, leaving claims 31 to 36 pending in the present application. Applicants canceled claims 11 to 29 in view of the election of claims designated "Group I" by the Examiner.

Applicants have focused the claims upon particular aspects of the invention designated Group I in light of commercial considerations. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims directed to the subject matter of canceled claims in continuation and divisional applications.

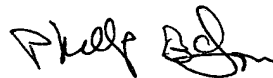
Support for claim 31 can be found at least in original claim 8. Support for claims 32 and 35 can be found at least on page 3, second full paragraph, of the specification. Support for claims 33 and 36 can be found at least on page 5 (fourth paragraph) and page 38 (second full paragraph). Support for claim 34 can be found at least in original claim 30 and on page 63, first full paragraph, of the specification. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Applicants have attached a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by the present amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Conclusion

If for any reason the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (206) 442-6681.

Respectfully submitted,
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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Claims:

Claims 1 to 30 have been canceled.

Claims 31 to 36 have been added by amendment. The new claims are:

--31. An isolated protein comprising:

(a) a B chain that comprises amino acid residue 26 to amino acid residue 52 of SEQ ID NO:2; and

(b) an A chain that comprises amino acid residue 119 to amino acid residue 142 of SEQ ID NO:2;

wherein the B chain and A chain are joined by inter- and intra-chain disulfide bonds.

32. The isolated protein of claim 31, further comprising an affinity tag.

33. The isolated protein of claim 32, wherein the affinity tag is selected from the group consisting of: poly-histidine tract, protein A, glutathione S transferase, Glu-Glu affinity tag, substance P, Flag peptide, streptavidin binding peptide, maltose-binding protein, and an immunoglobulin domain.

34. A composition, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a protein that comprises:

(a) a B chain that comprises amino acid residue 26 to amino acid residue 52 of SEQ ID NO:2; and

(b) an A chain that comprises amino acid residue 119 to amino acid residue 142 of SEQ ID NO:2;

wherein the B chain and A chain are joined by inter- and intra-chain disulfide bonds.

35. The composition of claim 34, wherein the protein further comprises an affinity tag.

36. The composition of claim 35, wherein the affinity tag is selected from the group consisting of: poly-histidine tract, protein A, glutathione S transferase, Glu-Glu affinity

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tag, substance P, Flag peptide, streptavidin binding peptide, maltose-binding protein, and an immunoglobulin domain.--